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It our friends who favor us with manuscripts for rubilication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

# The Truth About the Parker Boom.

The New York member of the Democratic national committee publishes in his newspaper, the Buffalo Times, the following editorial announcement:

### " BLAZE OF PARKER ENTHUSIASM.

The country is ablaze with enthusiasm for Judge ALTON B. PARKER, New York State's candidate for the Democratic nomination for President. Democratic leaders, legislators, private citizens and newspapers in all the States of the Union have declared in favor of New York State's favorite son. All other booms are being rapidly consumed and will be but memories after the New York State Democratic convention, which may be depended upon to lay the foundation for Democratic success in November by unanimously declaring him to be the choice of the Democrats of New York for the Presidency.

themselves upon having such an ideal candi date, one who is eminently fitted in every way to fill the highest office in the gift of the people and restore to it the poise and stability of which it has

" When New York speaks the blaze will become a conflagration

PARKER is the man who can win! "

This is stirring news. A similar report of the situation proceeds from another observer, the Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL, who tried so hard but unsuccessfully two years ago to make Judge PAR-KER better known to the Democrats of the State and nation.

The blaze of enthusiasm which Mr. NORMAN E. MACK says he discerns at every point of the compass has not yet inflamed his Democratic neighbor and contemporary the Buffalo Courier. That journal remarks bluntly:

An instructed delegation from this State unquestionably would be viewed at St. Louis as representing DAVID B. HILL rather than the free sentiment of the party here; the presentation of Judge PARKER'S name would be regarded as coming from HILL individually rather than from the Democracy of New York; and even if, as the protegé of our notorious Mephistophelean professor of practical politics, he should secure the nomination, his candidacy would be gravely handicapped. Throughout the campaign he would be styled everywhere as HILL's candidate. True or false, the charge would be insistent from the opposition that PARKER was HILL's property, and that if he was elected HILL would be the power behind the throne; and many Democrats in other States would so believe. There is every good reason why the New York delegation should go uninstructed."

The truth about Judge PARKER, as we perceive it, is not exactly as represented in Mr. MACK's bulletins or in Mr. HILL's proclamations; nor, again, is the view of the Buffalo Courier quite accurate as to the wholly damning effect of Mr. HILL's advocacy.

There is no blaze of enthusiasm anywhere over the idea of Judge PARKER'S nomination for President. The great majority of Democrats outside of New York want to know more about him. This has been their attitude ever since his name was first mentioned. They are perfectly ready to accept the New York estimate of Judge PARKER as a man of irreproachable character and respectable ability, who during a career of more than a quarter of a century as Surrogate and Judge has neither made manifest his fitness for the most important executive office in the world nor done anything to demonstrate his unfitness. Of his aptitude for administrative duties and responsibilities, of his opinions on the great questions which will enter into the campaign, they know little-almost nothing. At the same time, the disposition and desire to think well of him is general in the West and South and in New England. This receptive and expectant mood, however, is a very different thing from the burning enthusiasm described by Mr. MACK.

On the other hand, the circumstance that Mr. HILL has constituted himself the manager of Judge PARKER's political interests is not in itself sufficient to kill off an otherwise desirable and inspiring candidate, or even to handicap him in any serious degree. If the demand from the country outside of New York for Judge PARKER'S nomination should become intelligent and enthusiastic, if his now somewhat colorless and rotund personality should suddenly assume a new aspect of vividness and angularity, it is possible that his cause might defy even the destructive powers of the Hon. DAVID B. HILL.

At present the truth of the situation seems to be this: Parker boomers like borrow fire from a distant aurora borealis to start a real blaze here at home.

# How Not to Do It in Macedonia.

The game of how not to do it is being that it begins to look as if this spring will find the work of pacification and or- shirt sleeve diplomacy. ganization no further advanced than it his colleagues have held many conferences, and discussions have taken place as to principles and details necessary to be settled before the projected reforms

can be put into execution The Turks are great sticklers for corredtness in such matters, and so the discussions have been prolonged and tedious. Among the questions that took a long time to decide was that of uniform. Though willing to adapt themselves to the Turkish cut of their clothing, that since the Von der Goltz period inclines to the German style, they balked at the fez, which is liable to vary in shape from the hideous saucer-shaped contrivance of the time of the Sultan ABDUL Aziz, to the half-length of red stovepipe hat distinguishes the present Abdul

ternation thead-dress has been adopted

and the Sultan, it is said, has been pleased

to approve it

That point gained, it was discovered that the Italian and Austro-Hungarian officers of the gendarmerie entertained sentiments toward each other that made it undesirable that they should serve in the same districts. The difficulty finally has been solved, and harmony among served by keeping the representatives of these two nationalities apart.

The next trouble that arose and has not yet been settled is the degree of authority to be exercised by the international officers over the Turkish officials, and the power of dismissal. On this point the Sultan seems to have protested effectually, for after having demanded bound to obey under pain of dismissal, and to cashier all Turkish officers and soldiers whom they might judge to be States. physically, intellectually or morally unfit for their posts, and expel them from leaves them to the Porte.

wrecked the whole scheme. The Macedonians, meanwhile, who the Sultan and the Porte are said to be Mr. ADAMS. resolved to undertake the duty by exer-

is just what is wanted.

### Was Queen Victoria Our Friend?

It may be remembered that at a meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce held soon after the death of Queen VICTORIA Mr. ABRAM S. HEWITT asserted that in 1862 Mr. ADAMS, our Minister to the Court of St. James's, had appealed directly to the Queen over the heads of her Cabinet Ministers to prevent the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by Great Britain, which seemed at that time imminent. The Queen, according to Mr. HEWITT, replied: "Give yourself no concern; my Government will not recognize the Confederacy."

Another version of the story seems to have been accepted as authentic by President CHARLES W. ELIOT, who, on welcoming Queen VICTORIA'S grandson, Prince HENRY of Prussia, to Harvard in 1902, said: "It is credibly reported that at a critical moment the Queen of England said to her Prime Minister: 'My Lord, you must understand that I will sign no paper which means war with the United States.' "

Did any such personal interposition on the part of Queen VICTORIA really occur? The question has been carefully investigated by Mr. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, son of the former Minister to England, with results that are set forth in the proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society for October and December, 1903, and January, 1904.

Mr. HEWITT said at the Chamber of Commerce meeting that he had heard ADAMS himself. In a reply to a request made by Mr. C. F. ADAMS that the date of the incident should be more precisely fixed, Mr. HEWITT said that his impression was that the interview with the Queen occurred as early as the month of July. He added that as Minister ADAMS Prince Albert," who, as it happened, the first four months of 1862.

his life, and especially during his mission is lacking; yet in it there is no mention | gave it "hearty approbation." of Mr. HEWITT's name even, much less of any diplomatic visit on the Minister's credited Minister to any foreign country direct appeal to a sovereign over the Commissioner is authorized to pay from Mr. Mack and Mr. Hill are trying to that would have exhibited an almost portation of the settler's family and his equal disregard of English constitutional porting it at once to his Government. Mr. ADAMS was, moreover, of all men played to such purpose in Macedonia course to such a supreme effort at 3 per cent. fifty-year bonds, not more what could only be characterized as

How, then, are we to account for Mr. was last autumn. Gen. DE GIORGIS and HEWITT'S statement? On what basis gated and eighty acres non-irrigated. of fact was it built up? Assuming that there must have been some basis, Mr. C. F. ADAMS continued his inquiries, and made known their result at the January meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Could a basis be found in the only to be lent. somewhat different story to which Ir. ELIOT referred when he welcomed Prince HENRY to Harvard on March 6, 1902? within cultivation, he argues, will come Responding to a request for information, into the hands of speculators and land nothing worth considering outside of President ELIOT wrote that when he was grabbers, unless some such plan as the his own period, which was the golden at Oxford in 1874 he was invited by Dr. | bill proposes opens it up to settlement | ACKLAND to lunch with Prince LEOPOLD. It was in the course of the luncheon that the Prince told the story of the Queen's | vation Army measure, though that orconversation with Lord Russell. At | ganization will do all in its power to asthe time of the alleged interview (1862) sist the scheme, of the feasibility of which Prince LEOPOLD was but 9 years old, the Salvation Army colonies, already When telling the story in 1874 he gave established, afford a demonstration, in growth and progress. More than any

LAND, however, spoke of the story as if he believed it.

Now, Dr. (afterward Sir HENRY) ACK-LAND was in 1874 honorary physician to Prince LEOPOLD, as he had been to the Prince of WALES during the latter's American tour in 1860, and was therefore not only a man competent to form an opinion concerning the authenticity of the story, the members of the corps will be pre- but also so situated as to have special sources of information thereon. Consequently, his belief in the story is regarded by Mr. C. F. ADAMS as corroborative evidence too strong to be lightly brushed aside. It indicates, he thinks, that an accepted tradition prevailed in the royal family and about Windsor Castle that at some period of crisis in the course of our civil war Queen VICTORIA the right to give orders that Turks were | did take a decided stand with the Ministry in opposition to anything calculated to provoke hostilities with the United

The conclusion reached by Mr. C. ADAMS, after very careful investigation, the country, Gen. DE GIORGIS is under- is that something of the kind described stood to have waived these questions. He by Prince LEOPOLD did occur and that the policy of the Palmerston-Russell When these propositions became known Government was gravely influenced they raised such a storm of indignation thereby, though he inclines to think that among the Turks that they nearly the incident occurred at Gotha or Balmoral, and not at Windsor, and, finally, that it took place in the late summer or are kept well informed of everything early autumn of 1862. The inference going on that affects their interest, are | would be that Mr. HEWITT'S reminiscence again showing signs of unrest. Though gradually assumed form in his mind in the Bulgarian and Turkish Governments | consequence of his having heard at the are said to have arrived at an under- time, through the gossip of London and standing, it is not believed at Constanti- Paris, vague echoes of something whisnople that the former will be able to pre- pered about as having recently happened vent the formation of bands for the in- at Gotha or elsewhere. This gossip he vasion of Turkish territory. Should it gradually confounded in memory with show itself unable or unwilling to do so, talk and incidents in his intercourse with

Mr. C. F. ADAMS has done wisely in cising suzerain rights and sending Turk- directing public attention to this matter, ish troops into the principality to enforce | not only because it concerns us to know whether Queen VICTORIA showed herself Thus time is being wasted over trifles our friend at a critical juncture, but also and small details, and it looks as if that | because it is probable that further light on the subject is obtainable from extant but as yet unpublished documents. We refer to the papers of Earl RUSSELL. who was Foreign Secretary during the period in question; of Lord PALMERSTON, who was Premier, and of Lord GRAN-VILLE, who was in correspondence with both and who often acted as an intermediary between them and Queen Vic-TORIA. The probabilities are that an examination of their papers would disclose further facts of interest.

## The Floral Senator.

"The rose and the lily and the daffadowndilly" were piled high on the Senate seat destined to be occupied by the Hon. CHARLES DICK. His desk was a bower, a conservatory. Easter lilies, fragrant and fair as Buckeye politics, bloomed on his desk. The young Republican Senators on the extreme left of the Democratic side, sweetened on Wednesday by this flowershow, sniffed enviously.

Arm-in-arm the Hon. JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER and the Hon. CHARLES DICK glided along the centre aisle. The débutant from Akron took the oath of office. Then he and his senior tripped down to the flower-heaped seat. Then came a period of hand shaking, an art not unknown to Ohio statesmen.

After the arm-in-arm walk came the heart-to-heart talk, first between Mr. DICK and Mr. FORAKER, secondly, between Mr. ROOSEVELT and Mr. DICK. Behind all the bouquets lies one austere fact: Mr. Dick, Governor HERRICK and the story in 1862 from the lips of Minister gates-at-large to the Chicago convention; Mr. FORAKER may be the fourth brother. if he will promise to be good.

### A New Departure in Our Homestead System Proposed.

We have received from Commander BOOTH TUCKER of the Salvation Army kept a diary his son would have but the text of a bill for introduction into little difficulty in fixing the time of the Congress which proposes a very large interview with the Queen. In his remi-scheme for the colonization of the conniscence Mr. HEWITT had stated: "Mr. gested population of our great cities on ADAMS saw the Queen in the presence of lands brough under irrigation by the operation of the Reclamation act of had died on Dec. 14, 1861. Other cir- June 17, 1902 Mr. BOOTH TUCKER incumstances mentioned by Mr. HEWITT forms us that the project impressed the seemed to justify the inference that the late Senator Hanna so favorably that, a incident described by him must have few days before his last illness, "he spontaken place, if it took place at all, during taneously offered to introduce it into Congress." He says, too, that when its It is well known, however, that Minis- main outlines were explained at last ter Abams kept a detailed diary during year's Irrigation Congress that body, composed of delegates from twenty-six to Great Britain. In that diary a record States, besides Governors, members of of no single day of the period in question | Congress and Government engineers,

The scheme of the bill, in brief, is to establish a Colonization Bureau in the part to Windsor. Neither is any allusion Department of the Interior and to auto the extraordinary performance de- thorize it to make loans not exceeding scribed by Mr. HEWITT to be found any- \$1,500 to any person duly qualified to where in Minister ADAMS's correspond- enter land under the homestead laws, ence or papers, much less in any public or and properly certified to as to character; private despatch of his to the Secretary | the money to be used in improving and of State. Yet it is evident that no ac- establishing a home and farm on the land, and the loan to be repaid by the could have ventured on such an unprece- settler with interest at 6 per cent., in dented and wholly irregular step as a annual or semi-annual installments. The heads of her Cabinet advisers—a step any such loan the expenses of transnecessary household effects, and the law and of Court etiquette-without re- loan is to be a lien on the property purchased and acquired. A Colonization Fund for the purpose is to be provided the one least likely to have had re- by the issue of not more than \$50,000,000 than \$5,000,000 of which are to be issued per year. The lands acquired by a settler are not to exceed forty acres irri-

To the objection to this plan that it savors of paternalism, Commander BOOTH in 1886. Wonderful things have been Tucker replies by calling it a "pure business proposition," since the money is not to be given by the Government, but

The 100,000,000 acres of rich irrigated land the Reclamation act will bring by genuine homesteaders.

The bill, however, is not a strictly Sal-Hamidian era. After deep study an no authorities and said nothing about the opinion of Commander Booth

about \$300,000 has been expended in settling on them about 400 people, consisting of "worthy but poor families," all of whom have proved to be self-supporting and successful in getting ahead

pecuniarily. Moreover, he argues that it is obviously to the interest of the Government to get ble, and with genuine settlers, and not priceless treasures that they had at to suffer them to pass into the hands of speculators and land grabbers. "The charges against irrigated land are so heavy and the upkeep of the canals so costly," he contends, "that unless the enterprise will prove a financial failure and the cause of irrigation will get a serious setback." This rapid settlement he deems impossible without the Government loans for which the bill provides; but with those loans he is confident that it would take place, and not less to the advantage of the poor families settling in the domain than to the Government itself.

As a philanthropic project this scheme appeals, very naturally, to the Salvation Army Commander's humane impulses. but as a practicable measure of legislation it has no standing which justifies is in discussing it on its merits.

## Alloying Fine Gold.

Poets have a bad habit of spoiling their best lines by revising and repairing them. TENNYSON was a victim of this habit. JAMES BYRON ELMORE, the Hoosier Tennyson, is falling into it. He will hurt himself if he doesn't stop. Lecturing at Crawfordville the other night, he showed this regrettable, we had almost said this accursed, weakness:

"Everywhere I go the people want to hear m read about the 'Monon Wreck,' and even as it is to-day it is mighty fine. I notice, though, that they all laugh right in some of the most solemn parts. That is why I'm going to change it some.

People laugh in some of the most solemn parts! Of course they do. People are asses. They will laugh at the most pathetic parts of a tragedy. In the case of the "Monon Wreck," we suspect that read runs into hysterics. Not a brutal contemporary literature, but the excess of feeling, the fierce strain upon the nerves, the stinging of the heart which it causes, explains this misplaced laughter. for intelligence, for sympathetic appreciation, we hope that this is the case.

A great distich in the "Monon Wreck'

### Then came sad and lamenting cries From a wreck of cars as fine as flies.

Unconscious of the perfection of these ines, Mr. ELMORE, as modest as he is melodious, yields to the cantankerous criticasters:

" Now, I'll have to admit that the cars were not mashed up as fine as flies, but I used poetic license to work in a good rhyme. I thought that was all right, and it was but the ignorant without any poetle fancy who just laugh and say that if the cars were smashed that fine everybody on board would have been mincement or sausage. So I'm going to change it to read: ' From a wreck of cars whence fumes arise.

And there were plenty of fumes, too. The ars had been set on fire, and overcoats, fine plush seats, stiff hats and leather grips were all burning up, and making plenty of fumes. Then, also, when the crash came they were getting dinner ready in

The fumes of inspiration, as direct, strong and heady as ever steamed from the Hon. George B. Cox will be delegate set of the Chicago convention: wrote, when he caught those flies. Let wrote, when he caught those flies. Let them fly, untouched, unchanged, unequalled, or sad, lamenting cries will come from all the lovers of poetry.

Furthermore, the Alamo maker consents to mutilate the most splendid passage in all his work:

"There's one couplet I hate to change, but I feel that I must bow to the dictates of the unin

formed: ' And hear him calmly for to say,

Cut, oh cut, my leg away."

" Now, that's a fact. That man was calm, as calm as a morn in May, but I can't get any one not there to believe it, so I am going to change it this way:

" 'And hear him moaning for to say. " I guess nobody can kick on that."

Much as we respect Mr. ELMORE, it may be our duty to procure an injunction to restrain him from injuring a line dear and hallowed in the memory of millions.

## A Great Greek Scholar. The British Museum has sustained

reat loss in the death of ALEXANDER S MURRAY, who died on the 5th of this month in his sixty-fourth year. Mr MURRAY was the greatest Greek scholar of our time, and his death will be felt as a personal affliction by every student of Greek antiquities. No man ever did so much as he to elucidate Greek art, and he had long since become the supreme authority upon all questions concerning it. How he will be missed by the many scholars of his own, and, indeed all civilized countries, who will no longer find him at his post in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, of which he was an honored figure for so many years! All Greek questions gravitated to ALEXANDER MURRAY. Intolerant of illusions, he would suffer none in others, and in his broad and sometimes intemperate Northern speech it was a great privilege to assist at their demo-

He was born in Edinborough in 1841 and in 1867 he became assistant keeper under Sir CHARLES NEWTON, whom he succeeded as curator of the department wrought by him in respect of the world's knowledge of Hellenistic art and everything related to it, but he was no selfish scholar and has doubtless left his lifework in the ablest hands. He had one great fault or weakness, and that was that the whole world of art contained age of Greece. To that he adhered with admirable bigotry, and those who were fortunate enough to know him learned to think all the more of him on account of it. He was an excellent friend of our Metropolitan Museum and took a most affectionate interest in its other scholar he made known to his the source of his information. Dr. ACR- TUCKER. Two of these colonies, he contemporaries in Europe how really

informs us, are on irrigated land, and important were its possessions, and he was for more than thirty-five years the close and steadfast friend of its curator, that other eminent Greek scholar and sterling character, Gen. L. P. DI CESNOLA. For him he had the greatest esteem and always berated American students at the British Museum when he found, as was too commonly the case, that these lands settled as speedily as possi- they knew absolutely nothing of the

A correspondent has taken the trouble to count and mark in the President's letter of instructions to the Panama Canal Commissioners the instances of the use of the entire tract is simultaneously settled the first personal pronoun singular; and he asks us if we remember ANDY JOHNSON'S "my policy."

We fail to perceive the significance of the inquiry. In eight or nine hundred words, Mr. ROOSEVELT uses "I," "me" and "my' only twenty-eight times, and always gracefully, properly, and, to all appearances, naturally and unconsciously.

He is addressing a number of gentleme in a sort of fatherly epistle on official duty. They and not he himself are in the foreground of his mind throughout the letter of instructions. If statistical proof of this is required, our correspondent will find it in the fact that while Mr. ROOSEVELT used the first personal pronoun twenty-eight times, he employed the second personal pronoun, "you," "your" and "yourselves," forty times in the same piece of literary

Football kicks proudly through the "curriculum." In Minnesota it has ceased to be an elective study. Ability to teach it, our despatches from Minneapolis tell us, "is to be one of the requirements of new teachers throughout the State next fall. This is as it should be. All other studies, sciences and arts are branches. Football is the root of the matter.

The Hon. AMERICAN HORSE, the Hon GEORGE FAST HORSE, the Hon. EDGAR FREE THUNDER, the Hon. GEORGE SWORD, and the other Ogallala mugwumps and werowances who were lectured by Mr. ROOSEVELT at the White House, Wednesday, on the evils of horse racing and gambling, the beauties of agriculture and the five-to-one ratio between ponies and cattle. must have been greatly surprised. Tickled, too. They came from the lecture, "their the high emotion caused by hearing it faces beaming with smiles." They know that the Bennings spring meeting has bedisregard of one of the noblest works of gun in Washington. Many of the paleface brethren and sisters don't keep even a sixteen-to-one ratio in the matter of horses and cattle. Even the Rough Riders, the salt of the earth and savers of the nation, are not all devoted to strictly agricultura For the sake of the reputation of Indiana or grazing pursuits, and have been known to "play the ponies." The Hon. Young-MAN-AFRAID and his fellow chiefs may be excused for grinning. Why are they called upon to be more virtuous than other people

## The Need of Marksmen in War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: No mater how beautifully the soldiers manœuvre. or how wonderful their tactics, unless the men who aim the guns can plant their bullets in the bodies of the enemy they are, after all, little better than holiday soldiers, ill fitted

I saw the terrible results of this during our civil war, where armies, composed prin-cipally of civilians who had had little or no experience in the use of the rifle, were drilled months to manœuvre on a grand scale without being taught to shoot with ball. The Confederates were more skilful; and how they attested that skill when the Union soldiers were rushed at them at Antietam and Fred ericksburg armed only with the bayonet, because our Generals had no faith in the bullet A division annihilated at Antietam, 8,000 killed and wounded in front of Marye's Hill, and not a single Union bayonet reaching the line of e enemy! At Bunker Hill undisciplined Americans

slew a thousand British, who were perfect in the science of military evolutions. Bur-goyne at Saratoga was forced to surrender because of the fearful execution of American and Kentucky, who were as ignorant of tactics as of book learning, killing and wounding 2,100 in a battle that occupied only twenty-five minutes. It is not necessary for me to cite further historical incidents. Our army, in the civil war by practice on the skirmish and battle line, learned to shoot, but at what a fearful cost?

Allow me to susgest that the best markswhat a fearful cost?

Allow me to suggest that the best marksmen in field service are those who can judge and estimate distances by the eye, in a broken country, and therefore practice should be given, if possible, in all around field shooting, as well as on a level range. The Boers were formidable antagonists because, besides being splendid marksmen, as hunters they had become skilled in estimating distances.

MACDONALD VAN WAGONER,
Veteran of the Civil War.

Kingston, March 21.

Will Power of Left Handed Men? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: You raise the as satisfactorily as the right handed fellow, and evidently think that he does. As the manager of a considerable office force,

have learned from experience that a left handed man invariably does everything "left handed. All articles in desk use are in the opposite position to where they should be; paper files and letter files, ditto-in fact, any action requiring the use of the hand together with the mind is always done vice versa, and necessitates the extra work of having same reversed and righted.

The left handed man also lacks will power, or he wouldn't be left handed. Have you ever seen a successful "left handed" business man? NEW YORK, March 24. MORRIS GOLDFEDER. Lincoln's Words at Gettysburg.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIL: With the many script before me of the Gettysburg address given by Mr. Lincoln to the ladies having charge of the fair in ald of the Sanitary Commission held in New York in March, 1864, I can inform your correspon "whose communication dated "Nex Haven, Feb. 16," you published, that in the above mentioned manuscript Mr. Lincoln's words the clauses "T. H. S." refers to, are as follows: 'Upon this Continent.'

"Have consecrated it, far above our poor powe "It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated." "Government of the people, by the people, fo

Courtesy at the Boston Public Library. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sit: One of your rrespondents commented recently with severity the management of the Boston Public Library. My experience has been more fortunate than his I am not a Bostonian but went to the library some I told the person in charge that I did not know which volume of a set I needed. them all." was the reply. In five minutes twelve octave volumes were on the table before me. Greater courtesy could not have been given to me in the

# Czech-Mated!

You know that Keats won't rhyme with Yeats.

private library of a friend. WILLIAM C. GILMAN.

NORWICH, Conn., March 24.

That Cowper should be Cooper. For "b" in Lamb who gives a d-But some misguided trooper! Though foreign names assert their claims To paralyze your thorax. Each one you'll kill with ease until

You're up against Dvorak's! You see no hitch in Sienkiewicz. You're never off in Gortschakoff,

You toy with Dolgorouki: In Thackeray you find a way To Frenchify De Florac But any name is weak and tame When up against Dvorak!

Though oft you roam away from home To some far distant nation Where tongues are met whose alphabet

Precludes pronunciation; Though East and West you've lain to rest in palace, cabin (or shack), How can you tell that what they spell

## THE TWO PLATOON BILL.

A Very Earnest Argument in Its Favor. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The statements appearing in Wednesday morning's SUN, under the heading, "Some Facts About the Firemen," I most respectfully solicit the privilege of correcting. The general tone of your editorial warrants the lief that it is gathered from the brief submitted by the Fire Commissioner to the Senate Cities' Committee at Albany, which contains

many errors. The statement that the "Two Platoon bill" would diminish the efficiency of the New York city firemen is made in advance of the pros and cons of the case; and instead of increasing the city's expenses by \$2,000,000 a year, the proposed system would require an increase slightly in excess of 25 per cent. of the present force, in order to obtain the same number of men for all duty as are generally ditions.

The object of this bill is to systematize the fire-fighting force and not merely to gain additional time off for the men. It is to remove the men from their present unfortunate conthe men from their present unfortunate condition, where they are subject to the beck and call of their superiors, who can make life unbearable for them if they so desire. I make this statement without reserve, and with a knowledge of the facts, that men have been placed in engine houses where it has been impossible for them to get more than one meal at home in forty-eight hours, and in some cases where they have not been able to see their families at all for ten days. In addition to this, until these facts were presented to the Senate committee on Tuesday, March 15, the firemen were not even permitted to protest at a public hearing, although several were present by Chief Croker's permission to oppose the bill.

The firemen are well paid, as they deserve

ent by Chief Croker's permission to oppose the bill.

The firemen are well paid, as they deserve to be. As for being "well housed," the writer can mention so many instances of firemen being obliged to spend their lives in fire houses not fit for cattle that "well housed" might apply to the favored few. I might mention a few of the houses which are far from coming up to the standard of decency; Engine Companies No. 10, No. 6, No. 32, No. 12 (this house has been complained of by the Board of Health); No. 47, Hook and Ladder 10. Twenty more might be mentioned where the gas and hot water are lacking in winter, where the air is reeking with sewer gas, where the plumbing is in a vile condition, and where in some instances twenty men are required to sleep in a room not fit for a half dozen.

With reference to the firemen being pensioned, the department's own records show that a man's chance of arriving at a twenty-year service, in order to get this pension, is seven-tenths of 1 per cent. As to the death rate in 1901, the department's records show the personnel of the uniformed force to have been as follows:

New York city, 1,464; number of deaths, 14; or approximately 10 in 1,000.

New York city, 1,464; number of deaths, 14; or approximately 10 in 1,000.

Brooklyn, 1,129; number of deaths, 15; or approximately 15 in 1,000.

Number of cases of sickness in New York and Brooklyn, 1,400.

Number of days lost through sickness in New York and Brooklyn, 1,400.

I am sorry these figures do not agree with Commissioner Hayes's report, but you will note that any mention of Brooklyn has been carefully eliminated in the department re-

carefully eliminated in the department reports.

Another thing to bear in mind is that men going into the Fire Department are subject to a rigid examination, and are declared physically perfect. When, therefore, we find that among the deaths there is only 7, per cent. due to injury and 93 per cent. due to disease, and also that 25 per cent. of those who died have served less than fifteen years, and that in Brooklyn 50 per cent. have served less than fifteen years, and that in Brooklyn 50 per cent. have served less than that the years, we must pause to

30 per cent. have served less than fifteen years, and that in Brooklyn 50 per cent. have served less than ten years, we must pause to inquire lif there is not something wrong.

The amount of work required by the firemen is not the consideration. The men have never been shirkers, and the trials of service cannot be measured by hours of labor. Thirty days in a fire house, even with very few fires to respond to, can be made a hell on earth to a man who is seldom permitted to get his meals with the slightest degree of regularity, whose sleep is continually disturbed, his nerves shattered, and his heart subjected to a shock by the continuous pounding of the gong at night. A hundred nights in fire houses have served to give the writer a painful reminder of this dreadful life. The four principal diseases in the department are pneumonia, consumption, diabetes and heart failure: 62 per cent. of the deaths are from these causes. New York will never have thoroughly efficient, economical and humane conditions in this department until this change is made. Chief Howe testified at Albany that the arrival of his men at Baltimore was virtually a fresh platoon coming on the scene, and contributed materially in aiding the worn-out firemen who had been doing continuous duty.

There always will be plenty of applicants for positions in the Fire Department, because it is human to seek a livelihood; but it is inhuman to take advantage of men who are endeavoring to support homes they are seldom permitted to enjoy. The fireman would not now be receiving even fair wages were it not for the efforts in the past of the very men who are endeavoring to still further mitigate evils. Instead of 2,000 men added

were it not for the enors in the pact of the very men who are endeavoring to still further mitigate evils. Instead of 2,000 men added to the force, there will only be required about 800; and instead of \$2,000,000 increase, half of this sum would more than provide for the

soo; and instead of \$2,000,000 increase, half of this sum would more than provide for the change.

"The fire insurance authorities are against it;" but many of New York's most prominent financiers and owners of more than a hundred million dollars' worth of New York property have written letters requesting installment of the proposed relief. The insurance people treat their own men the fire patrol even worse in many respects, and therefore we would hardly look to them for consideration. Few of them are familiar with the conditions of fire houses, and as they are supported by the premiums paid by property owners, we feel that the property owners, too, are entitled to some consideration.

Out of 3,000 men in the department, 2,200 have put themselves on the record in writing in favor of the bill, and the writer knows personally dozens of officers who have declared themselves desirous of the change, but who fear the pounding of the powers higher up. Senator Elsberg desired to know on Tuesday of last week why no firemen appeared in favor of this bill, although Chief Croker was present with one or two of his friends to appear against it. He was informed by a credible witness that Chief Croker had stated to the witness that he, the Chief, would dismiss any fireman who dared to appear in favor of this measure. Senator Elsberg then and there declared that he would pass a bill reinstating any fireman who dared to appear the favor of this measure. Senator Elsberg then and there declared that he would pass a bill reinstating any fireman so dismissed. Meanwhile, the Chief had disappeared from the room. The committee therefore arranged the hearing for this Tuesday, to receive proof of abuses in favoritism in the department, not only possible under the present system, but matter of fact on record. The writer has been present at every hearing during the past three years, and regrets that some instances of choke methods were permitted free play. Although there appears a disposition on the part of Commissioner Hayes to consider t

## NEW YORK, March 23. Against the City Civil Pension Bill

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sit: I would like to call the attention of the property owners of New York to one of the least meritorious and most selfish bills ever introduced at Albany. I refer to the bill bills ever introduced at Albany. I refer to the bill to pension the sinecurists of New York. Here are a lot of very lucky individuals who receive exorbi tant salaries from the city. They work daily from 9 to 4 and on Saturdays from 9 to 12. They receive full pay for all holidays, conventions, sickness and the many days they get excused for political work. If they ask to be excused for half a day any time they can very easily get off. They are all in favor of the Civil Service law, for the reason that it holds then in their sinecures. Why should we, the taxpayers, support these sinecurists in idleness when they have received in many cases three to five time their former salaries? Why do they not save their money? I am willing to go up to Albany with a delegation of property owners and oppose this ash un-American measure.

This bill, I understand, only benefits the clerks, not the laborers or street sweepers who are only paid living wages. The city administration that will pass a law making the city offices open from 8 to 5, and reduce the salaries of all sinecurists getting over \$1,000 yearly will be a very popular one except among the short-hour, over-paid sine-curists of New York. J. H. LEON LAUSER. J. H. LEON LAUSER. NEW YORK, March 24.

### The Elevated Structure at Fort George. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sit: Preventlo

being better than cure, I am prompted to inquire what steps, if any, have been taken to prevent the elevated structure, which is to continue the sub way from the face of the cliff at Fort George, from proving as great an eyesore as the present "L" road is to the rest of New York.

Great possibilities for beauty lie in the upper ortion of this city, which it would be a pity to frustrate by any ill-conceived permanent obstruc-To prevent in this instance a too startlin act of vandalism would be more within the power of the Municipal Art Society than to better the appearance of the existing elevated structure, which is a hopeless task. NEW YORK, March 24.

Magnolias decorate the outside cover of Country Life in America for April. The illustrations to th articles are of unusual interest. They describe motor boats, the beaver, the flight of birds and the raising of squabs. The story of the Easter illy is timely. There is a description of Washington's Mount Vernon and another of a three hundred acre estate in New York city

## THE LAST MOON OF WINTER.

Ancient and Modern Celebrations of the

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Here in New York there is an old legend, or prophecy, according to which no fine weather can make appearance before St. Patrick's day. The farmers and the fishermen pin their faith upon the influence of the Irish saint over clouds and sunshine: and now that the celebration of his feast day is over and fine weather not yet in sight, some people are inclined to blame St. Patrick for his laziness. . Now, this is not just, because the good saint never claimed to be a weather worker or even a weather prophet. Long before there were any parades in New York, and long before St. Patrick was born, the 17th of March was celebrated pompously in ancient Rome, and the leading feature in the ceremonies was the tossing of manikins into the Tiber, to signify the drowning of wicked old winter and to hail the coming o

the ceremonies was the tossing of manikins into the Tiber, to signify the drowning of wicked old winter and to hail the coming of spring.

Remnants of that old Roman custom are still found in Continental Europe. In France the thing became sudly distorted. The old moon, the last moon of winter, was forgotten and "la vieille," the name which was given to her, was applied to some one among the oldest women in the towns and villages. She was subjected to the annoyances of the gamins who, armed with wooden sabres, followed her through the streets shouting "Sabrons la vieille!" But in Limousin the Roman tradition was stuck to somewhat closer. The boys made mud statues looking more or less like the figures of old women. They they shouted in the Limousin patois, "Recedza lo vieillo!" and hacked the figures to pieces, after which they flung the fragments, Roman fashion, into the river.

In Spain, "Queen Cuaresma" is the sovereign lady doomed to destruction at the close of March. She wears a crown of sorrel or spinach and has a leek for a sceptre. She has seven long and hungry weeks of Lent. At the end of every week one of her legs is cut off, and at midnight on Holy Saturday she is taken to some public place—in Madrid to the Plaza Mayor—and there hacked to pieces, while the people cheer and the bandplays "God Save the Queen" or some tune to that effect. Poor Queen Cuaresma! She holds the record in martyrdom for many long years and she is not yet canonized.

Nearly forty years ago the 17th of March was celebrated furiously on Staten Island. A manikin representing Saint Patrick was carefully and secretly made. He was dressed in the fashion of the time, wearing a long stovepipe hat with a heavy list to port, a ranged old coat with the necks of whiskey bottles sticking out of the pockets. Sometimes he wore a boot and a shoe, and in the corner of his mouth he carried a short clay pipe. When his tollet was completed, a rope was put around his neck and he was hung up to the branch of a tree or suspended from some flagpole. The

perate fight.

Those "good old days" are gone, and the sons and grandsons of the fighters of the contending factions are now fast friends who laugh at the stories of the follies of their fathers.

ERIN. STATEN ISLAND, March 23.

Dissatisfaction With M. Pelletan's Administration. PARIS, March 16.-The charges against M.

FRENCH NAVAL TROUBLES.

Pelletan, now before the French Budget Commission, are serious. In 1892 provision was made for six torpedo boat destroyers; but M. Pelletan decided

In 1892 provision was made for six torpedo boat destroyers; but M. Pelletan decided that four would be quite enough. Twenty-four torpedo boats which were to be finished in 1963 had the contracts for their building signed last month (February, 1904). The Minister also stopped the construction of eleven submarines which should have been completed by now. Scarcely any of the money appropriated for the defence of Corsica has found its way to that island.

M. Lockroy, formerly Marine Minister, presented the testimony of officers of high standing in the marine service showing that the road to high rank in the French may, under the rule of Pelletan runs through the slums of radical socialism and anarchy. Moreover, he has introduced an odious ayatem of espionage which tends to make both officers and men disgusted with their profession. "He has systematically disorganized our naval forces," said M. Lockroy. "Our best officers are seeking to escape from our service, on account of the injustice to which they are subjected. How can there be anything but disorders and delays in the service when the Minister is not in touch with the chiefs of departments and when his own bureau endeavors to absorb everything?"

This looks very bad for M. Pelletan, and the case of his protégé, the quartermaster This looks

This looks very bad for M. Pelletan, and the case of his protégé, the quartermaster who was caught the other day doing a rush-ing business in the matter of secret docu-ments belonging to the Marine Department, is not likely to help the Red Marine Minister. The Choir Boys' Strike

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Why do you make sensational matter of the trifling troubles in Protestant churches, but warily avoid it in the case of the Roman Catholic? The recent "strike," as you called it, of the boy choristers of an Episcopal church you exploited in a way to cast discredit upor its authorities: implying to them parsimony, mean-

You are, of course, aware that the boys employed in Roman services rarely receive anything at all. You must be aware, further, that the latter churches have controversies and disagreements capable of same sensational treatment. NEW YORK, March 23.

Our friend's suspicions are morbid. The choir boys' strike to which he refers was a rifling affair and it was described as such in THE SUN. It happened in an Episcopal church, but if it had taken place in any other it would have been noticed in the same way as an amusing piece of news. There was no parsimony by the Church of the Heavenly Rest in refusing to pay the boys what they give, but so also had the boys a right to strike for more. THE SUN, as every observing reader must have discovered, has no preference so far as churches are concerned, but treats all of them with due consideration as poten

The Stenographer's Shakespeare.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Many in stances have been presented of the extraordinary workings of the average stenographer's mind, bu I think this one has most of the others backed into the ropes. In the course of dictation I happened to quote the hackneyed remark of Hamiei: "Thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought." To my surprise, it was rendered by the young lady who presides over the typewriting machine: Thus the native hue of resolution is a sickly

comings of the majority of stenographers of the present day may be found not only descriptive, but soothing to the feelings of those whose souls are daily harrowed by the perpetration of bulls usually less amusing than the foregoing: Lot the poor typewriter, whose uncertain mind

The following distich expressive of the she

Puts periods in front and capitals behind. DICTATOR NEW YORK, March 24.

## Vatican Army Reformed From the Tablet. Pope Pius X. is reforming his "army." The forces

of the Holy See at present hardly exceed 400 men. and half of these consist of the citizen soldiers known as the Palatine Guard, who are detailed for service in St. Peter's and the Vatican during the great Papal functions. The Holy Father has reduced their number from 200 to 100. He has a reduced by thirty men the Swiss Guards, who n number about ninety. On the other hand, he has increased the Pontincal Gendarmes, whose func-tions are more useful than ornamental, from 72 to 100. The number of the Noble Guards has been left unaltered, buttwenty-five of the older members of it have been retired and their places supplied by a younger generation.

# A Strange Question

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: And the Great Frank Hiscock, too! Why do you put him among the dead ones! He was just as much alive when your editorial of March 19 was written as he WASHINGTON, March 21.

# Exactly. What are you kicking about?

The Unperformed Labor of Hercules. Hercules cheerfully cleaned out the stables.

"I was afraid," he explained, "that they weul With a happy smile, he considered s the easy end of the housecleaning.